

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01399 131204Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 /093 W
-----088856 131210Z /15

O 131305Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 690
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1399

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RHODEISA: SMITH INVITES PF TO JOIN INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT AND SAYS DECISION TO ATTEND NEW
CONFERENCE WOULD BE MADE BY ALL FOUR INTERNAL
LEADERS

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, SMITH GAVE A TELEVISION
BROADCAST IN SALISBURY ON MARCH 12, IN WHICH HE SAID THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS WERE FREE TO RETURN TO RHODESIA
TO TAKE PART IN THE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS AND CONTEST THE
ELECTIONS. THE ONLY CONDITION SMITH GAVE WAS THAT THEY
RETURN "IN PEACE". SMITH ALSO SAID THAT BRITAIN AND
AMERICA HAD CALLED FOR A NEW CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE SALISBURY
AGREEMENT DID NOT MAKE ADEQUATE PROVISIONS FOR THE
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SECURITY FORCES DURING THE TRANSITION. HE SAID THAT
ANY DECISION TO ATTEND SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE
TO BE TAKEN JOINTLY BY THE FOUR LEADERS WHO SIGNED THE
SALISBURY AGREEMENT. SMITH SAID "THE FOUR OF US WOULD
HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE PURPOSE WOULD NOT BE TO
REOPEN DISCUSSION ON MATTERS ON WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY
REACHED AGREEMENT. THAT WOULD BE A FRUITLESS WASTE OF

VALUABLE TIME."

2. SPEAKING OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, SMITH SAID THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE IN PLACE IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. HE SAID AMERICA AND BRITAIN WERE OPPOSING IT BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL "BEHOLDEN TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." HE ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHAT MORE BRITAIN AND AMERICA COULD ASK OF BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS ?" SMITH ALSO WARNED THAT ANY ESCALATION OF THE WAR WOULD BE MET WITH "DETERMINATION AND WITH REALISM ... OUR RIGHTS OF SELF DEFENSE ARE INVOLATE."

BOWDLER

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